

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-26 and 29-41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 6, 9, 13-15, 20-22, 26, 29, 33-35, 40 and 41 are amended and claims 7, 8, 27 and 28 are cancelled.

The specification and claims were objected to based on various informalities. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 20, 21, 40 and 41 have been amended. The Abstract is correct because it provides a brief narrative of the disclosure as a whole. It is not necessary for the nozzle to be claimed. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 22-24, 27, 28, 31, 32, 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Berlowitz et al. (Berlowitz), U.S. Publication No. 2003/0082419. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Berlowitz fails to disclose a fuel reforming apparatus with a premixed fuel supplying portion which supplies a reformer with premixed fuel stored in a premixed fuel storing portion and an independent material supplying portion which supplies the reformer with independent material that contains water generated in a system including the fuel reforming apparatus, independently of the premixed fuel supplying portion, as recited in claim 1 and 22.

Berlowitz discloses a system for a fuel cell reformer. As illustrated in Fig. 2, Berlowitz only discloses a fuel container 1 and a water container 2 that supplies water to a reformer via an emulsion container 5. As such, Berlowitz fails to disclose both a premixed fuel supplying portion which supplies a reformer with premixed fuel (which includes water) and an independent material supplying portion which supplies the reformer with independent material that contains water, as recited in claims 1 and 22.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 19 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Berlowitz in view of Epp et al. (Epp), U.S. Patent No. 6,063,515, claims 9 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Berlowitz in view of Drnevich et al. (Drnevich), U.S. Publication No. 2003/0110693, claims 5, 6, 13, 20, 21, 25, 26, 33, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Berlowitz in view of Epp, Olsen, Unit Processes and Principles of Chemical Engineering, Inoue, U.S. Publication No. 2001/0049907 and Yamamuka et al. (Yamamuka), U.S. Patent No. 6,273,957, and claims 16-18 and 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Berlowitz in view of Wertheim, U.S. Patent No. 4,902,586. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references overcomes the deficiencies of Berlowitz in disclosing an independent material supplying portion which supplies a reformer with independent material that contains water generated in a system including the fuel reforming apparatus, independently of the premixed fuel supplying portion, as recited in claim 1 and 22. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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